

Missouri State Library  
Office of the Secretary of State

Library Services & Technology Act  
Federal Grant Program

# **GED Online Study Groups**

Grant Application

**Winter/Spring 2005**

**Missouri Five-Year State Plan  
For the Use of  
Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Funds  
Fiscal Years 2003 - 2008**

Definitions:

- A. A public library is a library established and maintained under the provisions of the library laws or other laws of the state related to libraries, primarily supported by public funds and designed to serve the general public.
- B. A public elementary school or secondary school library is a library controlled and operated by publicly supported elementary or secondary schools, and designated to serve faculty and students of that school.
- C. An academic library is a library which is controlled and operated by a two (2) or four (4) year college or university, either publicly supported or private, and which is designated primarily to serve faculty and students of that college or university.
- D. A special library is a library established by an organization and designed to serve the special needs of its employees or clientele. A special library must have an appropriately trained librarian, an organized collection, a minimum of 20 hours of service per week, with some opportunity allowed for service to the public or a strong commitment to resource sharing. They include both private libraries and publicly funded libraries, such as those serving mental health facilities, correctional institutions, and government agencies.
- E. A library consortium is any local, statewide, regional, interstate, or international cooperative association of library entities which provides for the systematic and effective coordination of the resources of school, public, academic, and special libraries and information centers, for improved services for the clientele of such library entities.

Reprinted from State Plan submitted July 31, 2002

**MISSOURI STATE LIBRARY  
LSTA Grant Program  
GED Online Study Groups  
Information & Guidelines  
Winter/Spring 2005**

**What is this grant program?**

This grant program offers Missouri public libraries currently receiving state-aid, academic libraries, and secondary or post-secondary school libraries the opportunity to serve their patrons who may be low literate or lack a high school diploma by establishing organized adult study groups around a GED Online curriculum produced by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and available free to Missouri residents.

While instruction is online at the GED Online site, and there is e-mail contact with a teacher, many adults also benefit from live interactions with others who are studying for the GED and with someone who can explain and demonstrate concepts and skills needed for GED preparation.

**Background information**

The GED (General Educational Development) test is a battery of five mostly-multiple-choice tests that cover reading, mathematics, social studies, science and writing skills. It is the most widely accepted alternative high school diploma in the U.S.A.

The GED Online study site sponsored by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) offers adults free of charge access to a GED preparation tutorial via the Internet, at <http://www.gedonlineclass.com/>. While anyone can access the site, the lessons themselves are password protected. In order to obtain the password, the student must enroll in GED Online and be assigned a username and password.

This GED preparation program is intended for students at about eighth grade level and above. At the time of this grant application, students whose academic levels are below eighth grade could also get access to the web tutorial [Skillstutor.com](http://www.skillstutor.com) through the GED Online program, and this may continue. Full instruction is online via the site itself and links to other sites.

**Who may apply for this grant?**

Missouri public libraries that currently receive state-aid are eligible to apply for this grant. Academic and secondary or post-secondary school libraries may also apply. Preference will be given to libraries in areas not served by traditional GED or adult literacy programs and also to libraries working in partnership with adult education programs in the community they serve.

**What special considerations apply to this grant program?**

- There should be a demonstrable need within the patron community.
- A regular meeting place (preferably, but not necessarily, the library).

- Internet access for the study group.
- The group must meet on a regular schedule, preferably weekly.
- The qualified facilitator must be present and active on a regular basis.
- The program must be non-discriminatory.
- Optionally, childcare or a concurrent children's activity may be offered.
- The grant will provide partial support for a children's activity occurring at the same time as the study group; funds for the children's activity may not comprise more than 30% of the grant award, excluding any funds for computer purchases.

### **What amount of funds may be requested?**

A library may request up to \$7,500 per branch/site for the program itself.

In addition, applicants may request funding for up to three laptop computers dedicated to project use. See instructions for complete information.

### **Are local matching funds required?**

No specific local match is required. However, any auxiliary materials that will finally be placed in the library's collection must be purchased with other funds. Any consumable texts outside the online instruction may also have to be purchased with local funds.

### **How may the grant funds be used?**

#### ***Eligible expenses include, but are not limited to:***

- Part-time facilitator/coordinator for program the grant period.
- Reasonable training costs for facilitator and training materials
- Supplies and consumable learning materials. Please note: LSTA funds may not be used for materials that become part of the library collection, although LSTA funds may sometimes purchase workshop materials.
- Publicity, mailing and printing costs
- Three laptop computers for students to use in connection with GED Online and the study groups may also be requested if the need is justified.
- If the library chooses to offer a concurrent children's activity:
  - Supplies
  - Consumable materials, refreshments, and other activity expenses
  - Childcare workers (The total requested for the childcare expense may be no more than 30% of total grant request for programming.)

#### ***Ineligible expenses include, but are not limited to:***

- Transportation or field trips
- Existing staff costs within the regular work week
- Collection acquisitions
- Vehicles or furniture

### **What is the review process and application deadline?**

- Eligible applications are reviewed and evaluated by the State Library Staff.
- The staff submits recommendations to the State Librarian.
- The State Librarian submits recommendations to the Secretary of State

- Final decisions are made by the Secretary of State.
- **Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.**
- **To be eligible for review, applications must be postmarked by April 5, 2005, or hand delivered by April 6, 2005.**
- No Grant funds may be encumbered or expended until the grant agreement is fully executed - signed by the grantee, the State Librarian, and the Deputy Secretary of State.

### **How long is the grant period?**

**July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006.** Projects may be proposed for fewer than 12 months.

### **What reports must grantees make?**

Depending upon the duration of the project, at least one Interim Report will be required, in addition to a Final Report. Statistics from the final report may be shared with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the agency that makes the free tutorial available.

### **Before you apply:**

Is your library's cash flow adequate to meet the following terms and conditions of this grant, should it be awarded?

1. How payments are made:  
Generally, grant funds are awarded in two or more successive payments, timed to allow the grantee access to sufficient monies to carry out and complete the funded project. However, 30% of the grant award is customarily withheld until completion and approval of the final report by the State Library. It is the grantee's responsibility to use the grant funds to pay project expenses in a timely manner. Grantees with cash flow issues are advised to work out payment arrangements with vendors in advance, if they must wait for a final grant payment to complete all payments to a vendor(s).
2. Disbursement of funds by grantee.  
Federal regulations require the grantee to expend (disburse) all Grants payments within a reasonable time period of their receipt – generally up to 30 days. Failure to do so risks default of the grant funds to the State Library.
3. How the grant will be paid:  
Grantees are paid 35% of the total grant amount upon completion of the final executed agreement. A second payment of 35% of the total grant amount is awarded upon submission and approval of the Second Interim Report and Request for Second Payment by the State Library.  
A final payment of the remaining grant amount (30% of the grant award or the actual remaining amount expended or encumbered) is disbursed upon completion of the project, following submission and approval of the Final Report and Final Request for payment by the State Library. The Final Report and Payment Request is due no later than 30 days after completion of the project or the end of the grant period.

**Where and how do I apply?**

***Mail completed application forms to:***

Kay Callison, LSTA Grants Officer  
LSTA Grant Application  
Missouri State Library  
600 West Main Street, PO Box 387  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0387

**For further information, contact:**

For further information on The GED, adult literacy, or programming and activity components of the grant, please contact Kay Callison, LSTA Grants Officer, Missouri State Library, telephone 573-751-1822, 800-325-0131 ext. 9, or e-mail

[kay.callison@sos.mo.gov](mailto:kay.callison@sos.mo.gov)

## **CIPA COMPLIANCE**

In deciding whether to apply for any LSTA-funded grant, libraries should be aware that accepting such a grant might trigger an obligation to comply with the Federal Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). Whether CIPA is triggered will depend on the specific use of the LSTA funds awarded. If triggered, CIPA will require a grant recipient to certify that it has in place a policy of Internet safety that includes the operation of a technology protection measure (filter) with respect to any of the recipient's computers with Internet access. The nature of the certification depends upon the type of library making application.

**MISSOURI STATE LIBRARY  
LSTA Grant Program  
GED Online Study Groups  
Application Instructions  
Winter/Spring 2005**

*Please call Kay Callison, LSTA Grants Officer, 1-800-325-0131 ext. 9, if you have questions about the instructions or application form.*

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

- Use the enclosed application form. The application form is not to be changed in any way.
- The application will be photocopied for use by the Grant Review Committee. Fill in the library's name at the top of each sheet. The application form and instructions may be photocopied as needed.
- Part II—Narrative is to be typed double-spaced on plain sheets, with the library's name at the top of each sheet. Attach this narrative to the back of the application form.
- Signatures must be included or the application will be ineligible for consideration.
- Failure to give the required information may eliminate your application from consideration.
- Double-check your math in the budget portion. Proofread the proposal. Correct spelling, grammar, and typing mistakes before submission.
- Use white 8-1/2 x 11" paper. Do not use binders, folders, notebooks, or staples.

**ITEMIZED INSTRUCTIONS**

**Part I**

*Project number*—Leave blank.

*Name of library*—Give the official, legal name of the library.

*Federal Tax I.D. # or MO Vender # if different*—Same as Federal Employee Identification Number (FEIN) or Tax Identification Number (TIN). Make sure this is your Missouri Vender ID number. In some cases, it is different and this is the number we must have to process your application.

*Project Director*—Give name of person who will oversee the project and serve as a contact for reports. Include project director's email address.

*Total population of library's legal service area*—Using the latest available census figures, give the population of the legal service area for all participating agencies.

*Estimated number of persons to be served by this project*—Give a realistic estimate, based on the best and most current information available, of the number of targeted

people the project will reach. The Missouri State Census Data Center website may be found at: <http://mcdc2.missouri.edu/index.shtml>.

*LSTA funds requested*—Show the total amount of grant funds you are requesting. Round to the nearest dollar.

*Project description*—Provide a concise description of your project, not to exceed 250 words. Include key information from each section of Part II.

## **Part II—Narrative**

This is the most important part of your application. Attach additional sheets with your responses. Organize your narrative using the numbers and headings shown in the application. Type the library's name in the upper right-hand corner of each additional sheet. Add page numbers. Paperclip sheets to application form. Do not use binders, folders, notebooks, or staples. Type and double-space.

Paperclip any support materials to back of application, after signature page. If you are working with a community partner, attach a letter explaining the resources provided by that partner to your project. A letter must be included for each partner.

## **Part III- Certification and Signatures**

*Signature of Library Director*—The application must be signed by the administrative head of the library, i.e., the library director, or other administrator, **in blue ink**.

*Signature of Library Board President*—The library board president must sign the application form, **in blue ink**. This individual must have the authority to sign legal binding agreements. A signature and date on these lines indicate that the library board understands and approves the intent of the grant and will allow the designated project director to oversee the project.

**MISSOURI STATE LIBRARY  
LSTA Grant Program Application  
GED Online Study Groups  
Winter/Spring 2005**

Project # \_\_\_\_\_

**PART I: Attention! You must use this sheet as page 1 of your application (*Please type.*)**

Name of library: \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Tax I.D. # or MO Vender # if different: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Library director: \_\_\_\_\_

Project director (contact person): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address (contact person): \_\_\_\_\_

Total population of library's legal service area: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated number of persons to be served by this project: \_\_\_\_\_

Library's current tax rate: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Library's current operating budget: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**LSTA funds requested:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Local funds to be used (optional): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Project description** (not to exceed space provided):

## **PART II: NARRATIVE**

Attach additional sheets with your descriptions of the proposed program, guided by the points below. Please number your sections to correspond with the numbers below. Narrative should be 3-5 pages not including budget section.

1. Explain the need for this program and identify the target audience. Report the status of any other programs and services for non-high-school graduates and low literate adults in your community.
2. List goals and objectives for this program. Goal(s) should be broad and general. Objective(s) for each goal should be specific and measurable.
3. Describe the study group you propose, showing how it meets both the community need and the requirements for the grant. If you are working with community partners, describe the role each cooperating partner will have in this project and include a brief description of each partner.
4. Estimate the number of adults to be served over the period of the grant.
5. If you have chosen to include a children's activity during the study group sessions, justify the need for it and describe the plans for the activity.
6. If you are requesting up to three computer(s), indicate how many and justify the need.
7. Briefly describe how the program will be promoted in your community-newspapers, flyers, contact with educational or social agencies, etc.
8. Include a project action plan. Present a step-by-step work plan including target dates that describe activities to be used to reach your goals.
9. Describe how the project will be evaluated, what tools of measurement will be used, and who will perform the collection and analysis of evaluation data. Will there be follow-up evaluation? You may include a sample evaluation form, if one is being used. Acceptable tools of measurement include questionnaires, interviews, data or number collection, use of existing data, structured observation, logs or journals, etc.

### **Budget**

10. Using the budget worksheet provided with this application, include a line-item budget. Round all figures to the nearest whole dollar. Check your math! The addition of local funds is not required; however, if local funds will be added to the project, list them on the first page of the application in the space provided.
11. Provide a budget narrative explaining all anticipated project costs listed on the budget worksheet. Computers must meet or exceed the minimum specifications listed in the Information & Guidelines. If requesting computers include materials indicating how the amount requested for the computers was determined. All

requests for project equipment must be project specific, appropriate to the project, and justified. Provide valid explanations for why equipment already owned by the library cannot be used. Requests for staff costs must include justification for additional staff hours, the rate at which staff will be paid, and the total number of hours staff will work. *Provide explanations for both federal and local funds.*

Library \_\_\_\_\_

# **10. BUDGET WORKSHEET: LSTA GED Online Study Groups Grant Application**

Budget Item	Amount per site	Number of proposed sites	Total Requested
Salaries and wages (see guidelines)			
Reasonable costs for training for volunteers and training materials and how the decisions about training were made.			
Supplies (Actual instructional materials are online.)			
Publicity, flyers, ads			
Supplies and materials for optional childcare/children's activity if library has chosen to offer one			
Prices of dedicated laptop computers if requested. Attach price quote(s). See Library web site for minimum computer specifications.			
Other (If not justified in the narrative portions of this application, please justify on an additional sheet of paper.)			
<b>TOTAL LSTA FUNDS REQUESTED</b>			

**The TOTAL LSTA FUNDS REQUESTED amount should match the amount of LSTA funds requested line in PART I.**

### PART III: CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURES

**ATTENTION:** You must use Part I, Budget Worksheet, and this page as part of your application! To complete this application, attach numbered pages with responses to items in Part II. Part III must be the last page of your application.

Signatures of both the Library Director and the Library Board President are required, or the application will not be considered.

*We are aware of, and agree to comply with, all state and federal provisions and assurances required under this grant program. If awarded grant funds, we assure that we will carry out the grant project according to the approved grant proposal. This application has been authorized by the appropriate authorities of the applying library. By signing this application, the library board acknowledges compliance with and agreement to all eligibility requirements.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Type name of Library Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Type name of Library Board President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, above official (in blue ink)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, above official (in blue ink)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

***Mail completed applications to:***

Kay Callison, LSTA Grants Officer  
LSTA Grant Application  
Missouri State Library  
600 West Main Street, PO Box 387  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0387

**Application deadline: April 5, 2005 (postmarked); April 6, 2005 (hand delivered)**

For State Library use only:

\_\_\_\_\_ Approved

\_\_\_\_\_ Not Approved

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Amount Awarded

*These grants are made available through funds from the Library Services and Technology Act appropriated by Congress and administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Missouri Secretary of State.*



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